TRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAY-ANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) According to progress received from various States/UTs, about 6. 31 lakhs families have been assisted during the last two months i. e. December, 1990 and January, 1991 under Integrated Rural Development Programme during 1990-91.

(b) Targets are fixed financial yearwise and not calendar yearwise. During 1990-91, 23. 71 lakhs families are likely to be benefited unde Integrated Rural Development Programme.

Prices of edible oil in Gujarat

1188. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of edible oil in Gujarat has gone sky-high;

(b) what steps Government are taking to control the price of edible oil;

(c) how much quantity of edible oil is being supplied to Gujarat for public distribution system at present; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Gujarat has demanded to increase the quantum of edible oil for Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIREND-RA SINGH): (a) and (b) The prices of edible oil had risen in the country in the past few months including Gujarat. Government have taken steps to bridge the gap between domestic production and consumption by import of edible oil (which is issued as PDS oil at low prices) to the extent of foreign exchange availability and other factors related with import of edible oils. Other measures taken to improve the availability of indigenous oils and curb the price rise include granting of excise rebate on use of non-conventional oils in vanas-pati, reduction of stock limits of edible oilseeds and oils with the dealers/manufacturers of edible oils, permitted blending of conventional oil with non-conventional oil etc. State Governments have been asked *to* undertake dehoarding operations and take strict action against hoarders and blackmarketeers in edible oilseeds and oils.

HVOC has started marketing of refined cottonseed oil 'Shankh' at lower prices than similar oils marketed by private trade. NDDB are marketing edible oils under Brand name 'Dhara at below market rates.

(c) Allocation of imported edible oil made to Gujarat from September, 1990 to February, 1991 are:

Month	Allocation (in MTs)
September, 1990	12, 500
October, 1990	14, 000
November, 1990	7, 000
February, 1991	.. 3, 600

(d) Yes, Sir.

Fertilizer plants in the country

1189. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer plarts, State-wise with names; and

(b) the States without any fertilizer plant and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAY-ANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) The information is given in the *State-ment* attached.

(b) The information regarding States without any fertilizer plants is given in *Statement No. II* attached. Because of very small demand of fertilizers in these States, non-availability of raw material in most of these States and logistic problem in transport of surplus finished fertilizer to other States, the establishment of fertilizer plants in these States is not economical. However, the demand of fertilizers of these States is met by the fertilizer plants located in the neighbouring States.